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COUNTRY OR AREA REPORT CONCERNS

Czechoslovakia

DATE OF REPORT

27 Aug 1958

THE NEW CZECH LD-40 "META-SOKOL" SPORTS AIRPLANE

-- description

SUMMARY (Give summary which highlights the salient factors of narrative report. Begin narrative text on AF Form 112a unless report can be fully stated on AF Form 112. List inclosures, including number of copies)

Forwarded herewith is a report entitled "The New Czech LD-40 'META SOKOL' Sports Airplane", which represents a translation of an article entitled "A New Czechoslovak Sports Airplane" (Novyy Chekhoslovatskiy Sportivnyy Samolet), published in the M: Sovetskaya Aviatsiya (Soviet Aviation), No. 31, February 6, 1958, p. 4.

The article gives a brief description and basic performance and design data of the new Czech sports three-seater LD-40, called META SOKOL, now in production on the assembly line (since 1957). The article is accompanied by a photo of the aircraft.

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THE NEW CZECH LD-40 "META SOKOL" SPORTS AIRPLANE

The Czechoslovak sports airplane "SOKOL" became widely known during the past years and several world records were established with that aircraft. Not long ago, a new improved version of it, an all-metal cantilever monoplane, a three-seater LD-40, called "META SOKOL", came out of the production line. The aircraft, powered by a Walter Minor, 105 h.p. engine, is easy to fly and has extremely good aerodynamic qualities (properties). Its tricycle retractable landing gear represents a special design feature. The tailwheel has been placed in the bottom center of the fuselage and is controlled simultaneously by the rudder. The cabin is covered with a glass canopy which provides for an excellent view on all sides.

META SOKOL performance and dimensions:

Maximum speed	230 km/hr
Cruising speed	205 km/hr
Stalling speed	70 km/hr
Ceiling	5000 m
Range (at cruising speed)	1,000 km
Takeoff run	220 m
Landing run	180 m
Fuel consumption at cruising speed:	11 litres per 100 km
Wing span	10 m
Length	7.2 m
Height	1.85 m
Gross wing area	14.6 m ²
Weight:	
Empty	425 kg
Loaded	850 kg
Wing loading	58 kg/m ²

Inclosed photo shows the META SOKOL airplane in flight
(See Incl. 1, Fig. 1)

Analyst's annotations:

1. The predecessor of LD-40, the SOKOL airplane (mentioned in the source as widely known), is no longer in production; it was terminated in 1956. There are, however, a number of SOKOL'S in the service with the Czech aeroclubs, and sold abroad. The world records established with that aircraft, incidentally also in 1956, were:

a.) By pilot Frantisek Novak of Brno regional aeroclub: Long distance, non-stop flight Brno (CSR) - Kulunda (USSR), 4,260 km; the flight took place on September 8-9th, 1956. It was preceded by another record flight on the Vno triangle on August 4-5th, 1956, in which the pilot covered a distance of 4,423 km in a total flight time of 22 hours, 16 min., 20 seconds.

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b) By pilot Lubomir Stastny of Pardubice regional aeroclub. In October 1956 he made three flights on the Brno triangle by which he established three world distance flight records of 500 km, 1000 km, and 2000 km with an average speed of 285, 283 and 279 km/per hour, respectively, — all in the category of aircrafts under 1000 kg; furthermore, a world distance record of 2000 km with the average speed of 281 km/hr in the aircraft category over 1000 kg. For these records, however, the aircraft was especially equipped with a Walter Minor 6-III, 160 h.p. engine.

2. The prototype of the new LD-40 META SOKOL airplane was flown in 1956; its assembly production began in 1957. One of the first foreign buyers was Sweden. The manufacturing plant is "Orlican", National Enterprise, ~~Czechoslovakia~~, Bohemia, 120 km east of Prague on the RR line Prague-Pardubice-Ceska Krumlova.
3. A description of the META SOKOL prototype was submitted in the report No. IR-1028-57; it was accompanied by 8 photos. The photos showed the aircraft with the same identification letters OK-KHA, as it is shown now in the picture published in Sovetskaya Aviatsiya No. 31, 1958. For comparison see Inclosure 1, Fig. 2.

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Fig. 1 - META SOKOL airplane in flight

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Fig. 2 - Prototype META SOKOL

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